

## 8. John 15-17

### The Vine and Jesus' Final Prayer

#### 1. The flow of thought in chaps. 15-17

- 15:1-17 - The Exhortation to Remain in Jesus (The True Vine) and in his love.
- 15:18 - 16:4 - Warning of persecution
- 16:5-33 - Jesus announces his imminent departure and the role of the Holy Spirit
- 17:1-26 - Jesus final prayer(s)

#### 2. Jesus the True Vine: John 15:1-8

- **The vine as symbol of Israel:** Psalm 80; Isaiah 5:1-7, 27:2; Jer. 2:21, 12:10ff.; Ezek. 15:1-8, 17:1-21, 19:10-14; Hosea 10:1-2
- **Psalm 80**
  - You brought a vine out of Egypt
  - Watch over this vine the Son (branch) you have raised up for yourself
  - Your vine is cut down , it is burned with fire
  - at your rebuke your people perish.
- **Exegesis - Jesus the True Vine**
  - God the Vine dresser
  - Branches that are cut off
  - Branches that are pruned
- **Theology**
  - Relationship to Jesus the basis for salvation
  - Genuine salvation will always result in fruitfulness

- Partnership between God and his people based on answered prayer vv. 7, 16.
- All for the mutual glory of all the parties

3. **Last days call to persevere: John 15**

- **John 15:1-8 Remain in the Vine / Jesus**
- **John 15:9-17 Remain in Jesus' love**
- **Note the inter-dependency of relationships throughout these chapters**
  - v. 5: Without Jesus we can do nothing
  - v. 10: The Son has obeyed his Father and so remained in his love – we must obey Jesus commands and so remain in his love
  - vv. 15:26: We see the inter-relationship between the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit

4. **Jesus prepares his disciples: John 15:18-16:33**

- **John 15:18 - 16:4 The inevitability of persecution.**
  - 15:20: If they persecuted me they will persecute you
  - 15:22: Issue of justice - If I had not come and spoken to them they would not be guilty of sin.
  - 15:26: The Holy Spirit will testify and so must you
  - 16:1-4: They will put you out of the synagogue – I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.
- **John 16:5-33 Jesus prepares his disciples for his departure**
  - Jesus is going back to the one who sent him – vv. 5, 17, 28.
  - Jesus will send the Holy Spirit
    - To advance justice (see below) - v. 8-11
    - To teach the truth(s) they were not ready for - v. 12-14
  - v. 33: In this world you will have trouble but I have overcome the world.

5. **The warfare of the Cross and the justice of God: John 16:7-11**



- **The Holy Spirit is a Counsellor or advocate (a lawyer)**
- **He will convict the world of guilt**
  - in regard to sin v.9
  - in regard to righteousness v.10
  - in regard to judgment v.11
- **Because the prince of this world now stands condemned..... v.11**

6. **Jesus prays for himself: John 17:1-4**

- **v.2 Father has given authority to the Son over all people**
  - to give eternal life to those who believe.
- **v.3 Eternal life – is to know ‘you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you sent’.** Know = ‘ginosko’
- **v.5 Jesus asks to return to the glory he had with God ‘before the world began’**
- **The same high Christology as in chapter 1:1-4**

7. **Jesus prays for his disciples: John 17:6-19**

- **vv. 6-9 They belonged to the Father who gave them to the Son**
- **v.10 All I have is yours and all you have is mine.**
  - Astonishing claim by Jesus.

**Prayer and Protection**

- **vv. 11-12 Keep them in(by) your name – the name you gave me.**
- **v.12 I guarded them and kept them in (by) the name you gave me.**
  - Salvation depends on remaining IN the body.
  - Inescapable sense of protection attributed to Christ and prayer generally.
- **v. 13-15 Prays not to take them out of the world but to protect them from the evil one.**
- **v. 19 ‘I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified’**
  - What does this mean ?!?!

8. **Jesus prays for all believers: John 17:20-26**

- **Interdependence and *Intimacy* and **Unity****
- **Jesus prays that they may be one like the Father and Son**
  - so that the world might believe in Jesus
- **“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” v.23**
- **“in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them” v.26**
- **God cannot bless disunity. It will never be fruitful - you can waste your entire life through disunity.**
- **If we fail to understand the importance of relationship with God we fail to understand the purpose of salvation history.**